

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Means for covering specimens which essentially consists of a cover slip and a layer of a covering medium applied thereto, characterised in that the layer thickness of the covering medium is between 0.05 and 0.8 mm and the layer-thickness tolerance is not more than  $\pm 0.1$  mm.

2. (Original) Means according to Claim 1, characterised in that the layer-thickness tolerance is not more than  $\pm 0.05$  mm.

3. (Currently Amended) Means according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that the layer thickness of the covering medium is about 0.2 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) Means according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the cover slip is made of glass.

5. (Currently Amended) Means according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the solids content of the covering medium in the dried state on an area of 24 x 50 mm is 150 – 300 mg.

6. (Original) Process for the production of cover slips coated with covering medium, characterised in that the covering medium is applied to the cover slip by machine by means of one or more dispensing needles, by means of printing processes, coating by a liquid curtain, application through a slot nozzle, distribution by means of a doctor blade or by means of spin coating with a layer thickness of between 0.05 and 0.8 mm and a layer-thickness tolerance of not more than  $\pm 0.1$  mm.

7. (Original) Process according to Claim 6, characterised in that the covering medium is applied by means of one or more dispensing needles.

8. (Original) Process according to Claim 6, characterised in that the covering medium is applied by means of screen printing.

9. (Currently Amended) Use of a means for covering specimens according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1 for manual or automatic covering of specimens.